

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A regulating vacuum valve comprising:
a valve housing having a through-channel;
first and second valve plates which lie in adjacent and parallel planes and are mounted so as to be adjustable in their planes and can be moved into the through-channel from different sides proceeding from an open position in which they lie laterally adjacent to the through-channel to form a through-opening through the valve, the size of the through-opening being adjustable; and

an annular a seal connection piece which is supported so as to be displaceable in the through-channel of the valve housing and is sealed relative to the valve housing by a first sealing ring;

wherein, in order to provide a sealed state of the valve, said first valve plate is movable into a position in which it completely covers the through-channel and in which the seal connection piece is adjustable displaceable in the through-channel between a position in which it is lifted from the first valve plate to a position in which it is pressed against the first valve plate and is accordingly sealed relative to the first valve plate by at least one second sealing ring.

Claim 2 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 1, wherein in the position of the first valve plate in which the through-channel is completely covered, the second valve plate also occupies a position in which it completely covers the through-channel.

Claim 3 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 1, wherein the valve housing has a hollow space in the area of planes in which the valve plates are arranged, which hollow space extends on all sides proceeding from the through-channel, the valve plates being movable in the hollow space when moving into their open position.

Claim 4 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 3, wherein the hollow space is defined by the first and second side walls viewed in axial direction, and in the

position of the second valve plate in which the through-channel is completely covered the second valve plate, with its side surface remote of the first valve plate, lies opposite from a portion of the side wall of the hollow space adjoining the through-channel so as to be supported at the side wall when the seal connection piece rests against the first valve plate and the first valve plate accordingly rests against the second valve plate.

Claim 5 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 1, wherein the valve plates have, on their side edges which face one another in their open positions, recesses whose depth increases proceeding from their starting points.

Claim 6 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 5, wherein the distances between the starting points at which the recesses start are at least equal to the diameter of the through-channel.

Claim 7 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 5, wherein the recesses are substantially defined in a circular arc shape.

Claim 8 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 1, wherein the first valve plate and the second valve plate are mechanically coupled in their displacing movements.

Claim 9 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 1, wherein the valve plates are supported so as to be swivelable around swiveling axes extending vertical to the planes of the valve plates.

Claim 10 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 9, wherein the swiveling axes of the valve plates are arranged adjacent to one another on the same side of the through-channel.

Claim 11 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 9, wherein the valve plates are fastened to swivel pins which are swivelable around the swiveling axes and which are guided out through bore holes in the valve housing so as to be sealed relative to the valve housing.

Claim 12 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 11, wherein pinions which engage with one another are provided for coupling the swiveling movement of the valve plates at the swivel pins.

Claim 13 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 12, wherein one of the two swivel pins can be driven by a drive motor.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The regulating vacuum valve according to ~~claim 12~~ and ~~claim 3~~, wherein the seal connection piece has a flange which projects into the hollow space and which connects a plurality of axially adjustable pins which project through bore holes in the valve housing and are sealed relative to the valve housing.

Claim 15 (Original): The regulating vacuum valve according to claim 14, wherein the pins are adjustable jointly by means of a ring piston which is arranged in an annular chamber of the valve housing.